

For immediate release

IDOC Warns of Jail Scam

Indianapolis, IN (November 5, 2010) – The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) and local county sheriffs are warning Hoosiers about a new scam preying on family members of inmates housed in Indiana jails.

Henry, Morgan, and Huntington county jails have recently been contacted by an individual claiming to be an IDOC employee. The caller asks for a list of jail inmates with drug related charges who are scheduled to be transferred to the IDOC and claims there is a new drug treatment diversion program available for offenders that meet specific criteria. Department officials warn – there is no such program within the IDOC. Audio recordings confirmed the same person, who identified himself as Lt. Dan Woods, called Morgan and Henry County. The IDOC does not have any employee by the name of Dan Woods.

This same caller or his associates have also contacted relatives of inmates incarcerated for drug related offenses and advises them of the same fictitious program. The caller tells the family to send a money order for \$900 and the inmate will be transferred into the program, in lieu of prison. So far, two families of IDOC inmates have been contacted by two unknown persons posing as IDOC employees. In one instance, after the initial transaction was completed, the offender's family was contacted again and told they needed to send more money to cover fees at the county jail. In both cases, the families were pressured to get the money as quickly as possible and get the transactions completed over the phone within hours of the initial call. The identified victim families live in the New Castle area, and both inmates were incarcerated at the Henry county jail during the same time period.

IDOC investigators are working with the Indiana State Police to identify the perpetrators of this scam the issue as quickly as possible. Anyone with information about this scam should contact the Indiana State Police at 888-873-1694.

*Attached is a recording of a telephone conversation between Captain Dave Rogers from the Morgan County Jail and the individual claiming to be Dan Woods, where "Woods" attempts to obtain information about jailed offenders. Officials are releasing the recording in the hope that a member of the public might be able to identify "Woods".

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